

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A light diffuser comprising a polymeric film incorporating microvoids wherein the polymeric film comprises polyester or polyolefin, has a diffuse light transmission efficiency of at least 65% at 500nm and wherein the microvoids have an aspect ratio of between 1.35 and 2.0 and an average volume of between 8 and 42 cubic micrometers over an area of 1 cm² with a pore size in the range of 0.6 to 25 μm in the machine and cross machine directions and a height in the range of 0.2 to 30 μm, and, when used in a backlight system, the backlight system has an average weight-balanced color temperature variation (ΔT) of between 5 and 20 degrees K.

2.-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein the difference in refractive index between the polymeric material and the microvoids is greater than 0.2.

7. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids are formed by organic microspheres void initiators.

8. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids are substantially free of light scattering inorganic particles.

9. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein the microvoids contain cross-linked polymer beads.

10. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein the elastic modulus of the light diffuser is greater than 500 MPa .

11. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said diffuse light transmission is greater than 80% at 500 nm.

12. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said diffuse light transmission is greater than 92% at 500 nm.

13.& 14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric film contains provides greater than 4 times of changes in refractive index in the direction of light path, wherein the changes in refractive indices are greater than 0.2 and the light path is vertical to the plane of the light diffuser.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids have a average volume of between 12 and 18 cubic micrometers over an area of 1 cm².

18. (currently amended) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein the ~~said~~ light diffuser has a thickness between 12.5 and 50 micrometers.

19. (withdrawn) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic layer comprises polyolefin polymer.

20. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said polymeric film comprises polyester polymer.

21. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 9 wherein said crosslinked polymer beads have a mean particle size less than 2.0 micrometers.

22. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 9 wherein said crosslinked polymer beads have a mean particle size between 0.30 and 1.7 micrometers.

23. (withdrawn) The light diffuser of Claim 1 further comprising an integral smoothing layer on at least one surface thereof, the layer exhibiting an average thickness less than 12 microns.

24. (withdrawn) The diffuser of Claim 23 wherein said smoothing layer has a average surface roughness of between 0.02 and 0.18 micrometers.

25. (withdrawn) The surface diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said smoothing layer contains a cross linked urethane polymer coating applied to the surface of the smoothing layer.

26. (previously presented) The surface diffuser of Claim 1 wherein the polymeric film incorporating microvoids comprises a plurality of layers, wherein at least one of the length of the microvoids in the x, y, or z direction or the microvoid frequency varies by at least 28% between at least two adjacent layers.

27. (withdrawn) The surface diffuser of Claim 26 wherein the polymeric film contains at least two voided layers that are separated by a non-voided layer.

28. (previously presented) The light diffuser of Claim 26 wherein the length of the microvoids in the x, y, or z direction or the microvoid frequency varies by between 28% and 300% between at least two adjacent layers.

29. (original) The light diffuser of Claim 1 wherein said microvoids have a substantially circular cross-section in a plane perpendicular to the direction of light travel.

30. (withdrawn) A back lighted imaging media comprising a light source and a light diffuser comprising a polymeric film incorporating microvoids wherein the film has a diffuse light transmission efficiency of at least 65% at 500nm and wherein the microvoids are of a size, shape and frequency sufficient to provide an average weight-balanced color temperature variation of not more than 40 degrees.

31. (withdrawn) An liquid crystal device comprising a light source and a light diffuser comprising a polymeric film incorporating microvoids wherein the film has a diffuse light transmission efficiency of at least 65% at 500nm and wherein the microvoids are of a size, shape and frequency sufficient to provide an average weight-balanced color temperature variation of not more than 40 degrees K.

32. (withdrawn) A liquid crystal device component comprising a light diffuser comprising a polymeric film incorporating microvoids wherein the film has a diffuse light transmission efficiency of at least 65% at 500nm and wherein the microvoids are of a size, shape and frequency sufficient to provide an average weight-balanced color temperature variation of not more than 40 degrees K.